Second Sunday of Advent
December 10th, 2006

Faith Sharing
Readings and Questions for
Week of December 17th, 2006

Zephaniah 3:14-18 Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:10-18

Theme: John baptized with water, but the Messiah will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Question for Adults: How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?

Question for Children: Talk about the importance of keeping promises.

Monday, December 11th, 2006
Is 35:1-10 Lk 5:17-26
8:00 a.m. Daily Liturgy
Intention: Stuart, Juli & baby Mendenhall on baby's baptism
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
7:00 p.m. - Lay Ministry Class
7:00 p.m. – Communal Penance Service at Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday, December 12th, 2006
Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Zec 2:14-17 Lk 1:26-38
8:00 a.m. Daily Liturgy
Intention: For the Gift of Hope
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Sewing Club Luncheon
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts

Wednesday, December 13th, 2006
Memorial of Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr
Is 40:25-31 Mt 11:28-30
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Office Hours
9: 00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Food Pantry
No Daily Liturgy
6:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Meal
7:00 p.m. - Faith Formation Classes
7:00 p.m. - Communal Penance Service at St. Isaac Jogues

Thursday, December 14th, 2006
Memorial of Saint John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church
Is 41:13-20 Mt 11:11-15
7:00 a.m. – Food Pantry Gift Wrapping for Angel Tree
8:00 a.m. Daily Liturgy
Intention: Repose of Mary Smith
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
7:00 p.m. – OLBH Communal Penance Service

Friday, December 15th, 2006
Is 48:17-19 Mt 11:16-19
No Daily Liturgy
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours

Saturday, December 16th, 2006
Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 Mt 17:9a, 10-13
8:00 a.m. Daily Liturgy
Intention: For those who are cold & hungry
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Food Pantry
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – Share Distribution
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Reconciliation

Sunday Readings
Third Sunday of Advent
Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18
5:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Eucharist
Intention: Memorial of Genevieve Walz
Ministry Schedule:
Bread Baker: *Irene Daschel*
Altar Servers: *Barry Vargo*, Christopher & Matthew Van Asma*
Blood: *John Wang, Betsy Van Asma, Charlie Desmond, Stephanie Strand*
Body: *Eileen Desmond*
Lector: *Cathy Wang, Jerry Meyer*
Sacristan: *John & Cathy Wang*
Usher: *Bernard & Loretta Wiehl*
Choir: *Family Choir*

Sunday, December 17th, 2006
Third Sunday of Advent
Zep 3:14-18a Phil 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18
8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Eucharist
Intention: OLBH Parish Community
Ministry Schedule:
Altar Servers: *Dane* & Hannah Schroeder, Alyssa Hoffman*
Blood: *Gary & Barb Erickson, Pat Suiter, Larry Williamson*
Body: *Marty Quinn*
Lector: *Pat Suiter, Joseph Jessen*
Sacristan: *Barb & Gary Erickson*
Usher: *Stan Barber & Don Everson*
Choir: *Regina's Minstrels*

8:30 a.m. - RCIA Class in library

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation Class

9:15 a.m. - Coffee & Rolls

10:30 a.m. Liturgy of Eucharist
Intention: Repose of Darvin Weiger
Ministry Schedule:
Altar Servers: *Megan* & Gina Czmowski, Mattias Diedricksen*
Blood: *Cary Nickles, Brenda Czmowski, Christine Diedricksen, Jim Hoag*
Body: *Lorinda Collings*
Lector: *Cathleen Denekamp & Tom Collings*
Sacristan: *Doug & Cary Nickles*
Usher: *The Inman Family*
Choir: *Folk Group*

7:00 p.m. – Adoration with Benediction

Prayer Corner: *Names will remain on the list for one month. Please contact the office for continued prayers.*
Improved Health – Frieda Helm, & Pat Schable, Glenn Bartholomay.

Repose – Darvin Weiger, Mary Smith

STEWARDSHIP
December 2nd & 3rd

Loose	$1,908.00
Envelopes	$2,308.00
Student	$188.93
Stained Glass	$6.25
Building	$872.66
Total	$5,283.84

Renovation Pledges
May 1st, 2005 to April 30th, 2007
Total Pledged - $141,112.01
Total received - $105,602.64

Sparks From Mark

Introduction to the Lectionary's Proclamation of the Gospel according to Luke (part 3)

This theme of divine mercy/compassion is evident throughout the Gospel, from beginning to end. At the outset angels announce to shepherds the Savior's birth; at the close of the Gospel Jesus assures the thief who was crucified with him, "today you will be with me in Paradise" (23:43). In between these enactments of salvation, Jesus uses the image of a father welcoming the return of the Prodigal Son to describe the compassion of God (15:11-32/Sunday 24C and Lent 4C); in the parable of the Good Samaritan (10:25-37/Sunday 15C), Jesus urges his disciples to extend to others a similar compassion and mercy. The astounding and confounding compassion of God is announced programmatically by Mary who declares that God "has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly; the hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty" (Luke 1:52-53). The ministry of Jesus is the realization of this compassion for the lowly and the poor, the outcast and the sinner.

Jesus' ability to embody such a tender divine compassion is rooted in his profound prayer, an aspect of Jesus' personal life which Luke develops more completely than any another evangelist. Not surprisingly, then, this prayerful Jesus devotes particular attention to instructing his disciples in prayer (the friend at night, 11:5-8/Sunday 17C; ther persistent widow, 18:1-8/Sunday 29C; the Pharisee and the tax collector, 18:9-14/Sunday 30C). The inner strength which comes from prayer is showcased in the Passion narrative which describes Jesus at prayer no fewer than six times. Luke further shows Jesus ending his life by praying from the cross that his executioners be forgiven – the consummate extension of mercy. Finally, Jesus serenely commends his life into God's hands. Jesus' ministry of mercy and compassion, grounded in his prayer, is the basis of the "good news" that God, in Christ, is fulfilling the ancient promise of mercy to Jews and Gentiles alike.

Luke in the Lectionary. The primary purpose of the Lectionary is to draw people into the liturgical experience of the paschal mystery celebrated in both word and sacrament. Our focus in these brief comments is on the word. As indicated above, Mary's *Magnificat* and the Canticle of Zechariah set out some of the major themes Luke develops throughout his Gospel: the Canticle of Zechariah highlights the themes of mercy and salvation so central to the Gospel, while the *Magnificat* announces the pattern of reversal which illuminates both Jesus' teaching and ministry to outcasts. As central as these are to the themes ad theology of Luke, neither is included in the Sunday readings. Instead, the Lectionary develops these aspects in the ministry of Jesus as aspects of the paschal mystery to be lived, rather than as literary themes to be understood and appreciated.

OLBH Communal Penance Service
Thursday, December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

We are in need of families or individuals to help prepare the Wednesday Evening meal. Please see the sign up sheets on the window of the front office or call Teresa at 787-5168.

OLBH Annual Volunteers Christmas Party There will be a Christmas Party in appreciation for all the volunteers at OLBH. Fr. Mark and the staff invite you to a party in your honor on Friday, December 29, at 6 pm here at OLBH. Let us thank you for the gifts you have given!

CRS Fair Trade Sale Last year as part of the Advent season preparing our hearts for the gift of Christ at Christmas, we sponsored a Catholic Relief Service, project called a Work of Human Hands. We realize that giving gifts is an important ritual in our lives in particular at Christmas. With Work of Human Hands we have the opportunity to multiply our generosity at Christmas. The Work of Human Hands project helps the disadvantaged artisans and farmers, in impoverished countries, who create tasty and beautiful hand crafted products to receive extra income for their families and an investment in their communities. On the weekends of December 9th & 10th and then again December 16th & 17th you have an opportunity to purchase in the Work of Human Hands project. Some items are chocolate, coffee, gift baskets and Christmas items.

Peace & Justice Committee
Would like to thank OLBH for making the Krispy Kreme fundraiser a success! We made $463.25 to go towards our mission trips. Please watch for more fundraisers in the future.

We are looking for a video!
The Faith Formation office is looking for the video, "Celebrating Reconciliation with Families". It may have been borrowed, if so, would you please return it to the office. Thank you!
-Teresa Thompson

Diocesan News:

Annual Diocesan Appeal
Please prayerfully consider participating in this year's appeal by placing your completed pledge form in the collection basket during any Mass or by mailing it in the pre-addressed pledge envelope. Envelopes are located in the gathering area.

LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS
The feast day of our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated with a bilingual Mass on Tuesday, December 12th, 2006, 6pm at Blessed Sacrament Church, 4500 Jackson Blvd. Bishop Blase Cupich will preside over the Mass and will deliver the homily in English and Spanish. A potluck Mexican meal will follow in the parish hall. Cooked food items can be delivered to the kitchen after 5pm the day of the Mass. Free will donations will also be accepted for the meal.

Level II Separated & Divorced Support Group, "Happiness Is An Inside Job", begins at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, January 11th at St. Therese Church, 532 Adams St., Rapid City. Level II is an eight-week non-denominational support group using John Powell's book by the same name. The group is designed to help those who are separated or divorced to deepen their healing experience and find new meaning and purpose in their lives. Previous Level I attendance helpful but not required. Registration fee (includes the book) is $38.00. Pre-registration is required. For information, contact Family Life Ministries at 343-3541.

Faithful Citizenship If there has been resistance–and if there still is–it was and is to those forms of research that provide for the planned suppression of human beings who already exist, even if they have not yet been born. Research, in such cases, irrespective of efficacious therapeutic results is not truly at the service of humanity. In fact, this research advances through the suppression of human lives that are equal in dignity to the lives of other human individuals and the lives of the researchers themselves. History itself has condemned such a science in the past and will condemn it in the future, not only because it lacks the light of God but also because it lacks humanity.

Address to Pontifical Academy for Life symposium on "Stem Cells: What Future for Therapy?"
Benedict XVI, September 16, 2006. http://www.zenit.org/english/
(From the Diocesan Pro-Life Commission Faithful Citizenship Committee)

National Vocations Awareness Week
January 7-12, 2007, is National Vocations Awareness Week. It begins with the celebration of the Epiphany – as the wise men of old brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the Christ Child, so wise men and women today give Him their lives. Let us remember to pray for priests and consecrated men and women this week, and for married couples and families. Send a card to a priest or consecrated person this week, thanking them for the gift of themselves given to Christ and to His body, the Church, or invite them for dinner. Pray for more vocations to priesthood and consecrated life – and consider a vocation to priesthood or consecrated life! www.Gods-call.org

D.U.H.—Don't Underestimate Him/ Lean into Him—The annual Diocesan High School Rally will be held in Ft. Pierre on March 24. Fr. Stan Fortuna, CFR will be our special guest and will also close the event with an evening concert. Suzin Pinkoski-Shaw will present "Love and Lifestyle Choices" and GodStruck will provide music through out the day. Bishop Cupich will preside at Mass. Cost is $25 and includes meals, T-shirt and all activities. For a more information or a registration form please visit www.rapidcitydiocese.org/Ministries/Youth or contact Susan at 343-3541 or sthompson@diorc.org.

Region VIII Leadership Camp will be held June 17-22 at the University of Mary in Bismarck, ND. YouthLeader is a proven youth leadership development program for high school age youth. Through a variety of learning methods YouthLeader helps young people learn skills, gain insight into Christian leadership and connect their values to their leadership roles. For more information or a registration form please visit www.rapidcitydiocese.org/Ministries/Youth or contact Susan at 343-3541 or sthompson@diorc.org.

For the Ride Home
Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2006

Scripture
- put on the splendor of glory from God forever (Baruch 5:1)
- Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing. (Psalm 126:2)
- For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more … (Philippians 1:8,9)
- The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." (Luke 3:5)

Reflection
- Why is Christ born?
- For what purpose is the scripture inspired and written?
- What are you called by Christ to do in your short time on earth?
- What are you waiting for?

If someone were to ask me: why do we pray, why do we fast, why do we perform our devotions and good works, why are we baptized, why did God, the All-Highest, take on our flesh? Then I would reply: in order that God may be born in the soul and the soul be born in God. That is why the whole of Scripture was written and why God created the whole world and all the orders of angels: so that God could be born in the soul and the soul in God. (Meister Eckhart, *Selected Writings*, Oliver Davis, Penguin Classics, 1994, p 113)

So our Lady is our mother, in whom we are all enclosed and born of her in Christ, for she who is mother of our savior is mother of all who are saved in our savior; and our savior is our true Mother, in whom we are endlessly born and out of whom we shall never come. (Julian of Norwich, *Showings*, Paulist Press, 1978, p 292)